

REMARKS

Claims 4-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 5 are amended to be in independent form, claims 6 and 7 are added and claims 1-3 are canceled. Support for the amended claims may be found in the original specification, for example, in original claims 1 and 3. Support for the new claims may be found in the original specification, for example, in original claim 2. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to be in independent claim form, and thus are in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-3 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 of U.S. Patent No. 7,027,041 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting.

In light of the amended claims, this rejection is moot. Namely, allowable claim 4 is amended to include all of the features of independent claim 1, allowable claim 5 is amended to include all of the features of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3, and claims 1-3 are correspondingly canceled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 4-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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